

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An apparatus for transferring commands, comprising:
2 a scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a
3 communication bus; and
4 control logic associated with the communication bus, the control logic
5 configured to control the passage of data over the communication bus.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a keyboard coupled to the
2 first port.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a computer coupled to the second port, where the communication bus passes
3 commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control logic is configured to
2 detect the presence of commands from the keyboard.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control logic routes commands
2 from the keyboard to the computer.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising keyboard enable logic
2 associated with the control logic.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the keyboard enable logic instructs
2 the control logic to route commands from the keyboard to a keyboard/scanner
3 interface.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a power detector coupled
2 to the communication bus, the power detector configured to detect a power signal
3 from the computer.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising power supply logic
2 configured to supply power to the keyboard if the power detector fails to detect the
3 power signal from the computer.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the keyboard/scanner interface is
2 configured to receive keyboard commands from the control logic and forward the
3 keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands
2 correspond to an email address.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands
2 correspond to a facsimile address.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a network interface
2 module coupled to the keyboard/scanner interface, the network interface module
3 configured to connect the scanner to an external network.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a document scanned by the scanner
2 is electronically mailed over the external network.

1 15. A method for communicating commands from a keyboard to a scanner,
2 the method comprising the steps of:

3 connecting a scanner to a computer over a communication bus in the scanner;
4 and

5 connecting a keyboard to the communication bus, where the communication
6 bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of detecting
2 whether a power signal is being transmitted from the computer to the scanner.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of supplying
2 power to the keyboard from the scanner if the power signal from the computer is not
3 detected in the detecting step.

1 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of detecting,
2 within the scanner, the presence of commands from the keyboard.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of routing
2 commands from the keyboard to the computer.

1 20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of routing
2 commands from the keyboard to the scanner.

1 21. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving keyboard commands from a scanner/keyboard interface associated
3 with the communication bus; and
4 forwarding the keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond
2 to an email address.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond
2 to a facsimile address.

1 24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
2 coupling a network interface module to the keyboard/scanner interface; and
3 connecting the scanner to an external network.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of electronically
2 mailing a document scanned by the scanner over the external network.